

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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MINERAL INFORMATION SERVICE is a monthly news release concerning the mineral resources and industry of CALIFORNIA, designed to inform the public of the discoveries, operations, markets, statistics, and new publications. It is distributed without cost upon request.

SEVENTY YEARS OF PROGRESS

THE DIVISION OF MINES
EXTENDS TO YOU A CORDIAL INVITATION TO AN OPEN HOUSE
TO BE HELD AT THE FERRY BUILDING
IN SAN FRANCISCO
TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 1950, 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

Since 1848, gold and other minerals hidden in the rocks and rivers of California have attracted miners, prospectors, and pioneers from all parts of the world. As early as 1853 the legislature of the young state established the First Geological Survey to study California's mineral wealth. Dr. John B. Trask, who already had made a three-year study of the Sierra Nevada, was appointed State Geologist and served in that capacity until 1856. His work is recorded in three reports which contain geological and mining information of considerable value. The Second Geological Survey under the guidance of Josiah D. Whitney, was in existence from 1860 to 1873. Eight volumes on geology, paleontology, botany, and ornithology were published as a result of the scientific work of this survey.

The State Mining Bureau was created in 1880 as an economic and scientific survey, and for 70 years has continued this work. In 1927, its name was changed to Division of Mines and Mining, and it was made a division of the Department of Natural Resources; in 1929 its name was shortened to Division of Mines.

The first office of the State Mining Bureau was a small room at 619 Montgomery Street. This was occupied for two months, until larger rooms at 313 Pine Street were found. These, however, were occupied only a year, as the building was razed in June 1881. The donation of many specimens and books to the museum and library of the new Bureau by the California State Geological Society made still larger quarters necessary, and a suite of rooms at 212 Sutter Street, over a stable, was taken. A series of robberies, the danger of fire, and disagreeable odors made this building unsatisfactory, and in December 1885, the Mining Bureau was moved to 24 Fourth Street. Four years later, the Bureau secured space in the new Ferry Building, where it is still located. Today the Division's quarters house the most comprehensive exhibit of mineral specimens west of the Mississippi River, and a library containing more than 9000 volumes on geology and mining. Its publications on mining, geology, and related sciences are distributed not only in California but throughout the world.

On March 7, 1950, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. the Division will open to the public for the first time its new mineral testing laboratory. Colored motion pictures depicting California and its natural resources, and the mining and processing of lead, zinc, and nickel, will be shown throughout the day; short talks will be given by staff geologists on clay, pumice and perlite, and gypsum; and tours through the Division's offices, starting at the information counter on the mezzanine floor of the Ferry Building, will be conducted by staff members. You are cordially invited to attend.